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**Via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail**

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Re: *Historical Information*  
*Bremerton MGP Site*

Dear Elizabeth and Bill:

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade) has asked us to provide you with certain documents and additional information regarding historical operations at the former manufactured gas plant (MGP) in Bremerton, Washington. The documents consist of the following, copies of which are enclosed with this letter:

- A newspaper article regarding dismantling of the MGP in 1972.
- A transcript of a deposition of Sverre Simonson<sup>1</sup> conducted on November 24, 1997. Mr. Simonson was a gas maker at Western Gas Company of Washington and later worked as a service mechanic for Cascade.

The additional information consists of recollections by persons with knowledge of the MGP. The information was obtained by or at the direction of Cascade's former attorneys and is summarized in confidential documents we cannot share with EPA. Although we cannot share the documents themselves, we can extract the information and present it to EPA in a different form. Enclosed please find a summary of the information. Please understand Cascade's production of the information does not constitute any waiver of confidentiality or privilege in the underlying documents. Cascade and our firm strictly maintain and reserve all such confidentiality and privilege.

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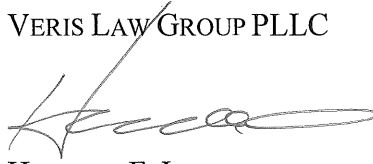
<sup>1</sup> Mr. Simonson is sometimes identified as Svavi.

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

VERIS LAW GROUP PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard F. Jensen', written over the printed name.

HOWARD F. JENSEN

cc: Client

4827-9470-1335, v. 2

# Cascade's Old Manufactured Gas Plant in Bremerton Sold at Auction

By DENISE KALETTE  
Bremerton Sun Staff Writer

The shell of a plant that made big headlines back in 1931 as Bremerton's newest, drudgery-eliminating industry was auctioned off yesterday, piece by piece.

Cascade Natural Gas Corp. hired an Edmonds firm to do the auctioneering at the old manufacturing gas plant at 1800 Thompson Drive.

The auction netted \$6,900, a terrific depreciation from the \$250,000 the plant was estimated to have cost when it was built.

The quarter-million-dollar gas plant and the Manette Bridge were hailed as the "progress steps" of the year, back in 1931.

Even Mayor Jack MacGillivray was on hand April 22, 1931, at a ceremonial first burning of the gas from the plant that belonged then to Western Gas Company of Washington, a subsidiary of Diversified Utility Investments, Inc.

"The advent of gas with all of its attendant conveniences," was a subject of interest not only to Bremertonians, but also presumably to those in Milford, Kan., where radio station KFKB broadcast a special program about the new plant.

Sponsored by the Public Utility Investment Company, an affiliate of Western Gas, the 30-

minute special pre-empted regular programming. It was accompanied by a "message of greeting to the citizens of Bremerton," the old Daily News Searchlight noted.

At yesterday's auction, there was no such fanfare—no program except the swift, curious monotone of Jim Murphy, whose firm Murphy Auctions conducted the sale.

The holding tanks and pieces of machinery left in the hulk of a building were often rusted, outdated affairs bid for by dealers who came from Seattle, Poulsbo, elsewhere in the Sound, and even from as far away as Portland.

Darvin Snow, owner of Bremerton Marine Service bought a couple of fiberglass tanks, some fiberglass insulation and a desk—all for \$26.

The brick building itself went for only \$475, according to Jack Randall, district manager of

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's Bremerton office. That purchase included 60,000 old red bricks, according to Murphy.

Some of the specialized items in the plant were not bid on at all, while others ranged from as low as \$1 to a high of \$550 for the big manufactured gas storage tanks outside the building.

Cascade has set a deadline for April 15 for removal of the property by its purchasers, with small items to be cleared before that date. The gas firm probably will sell the Thompson Drive land too, Randall said.

With the coming of natural gas, Cascade made the plant obsolete in 1963, Randall said. The natural gas was more competitively priced and it was transported more easily, he added.

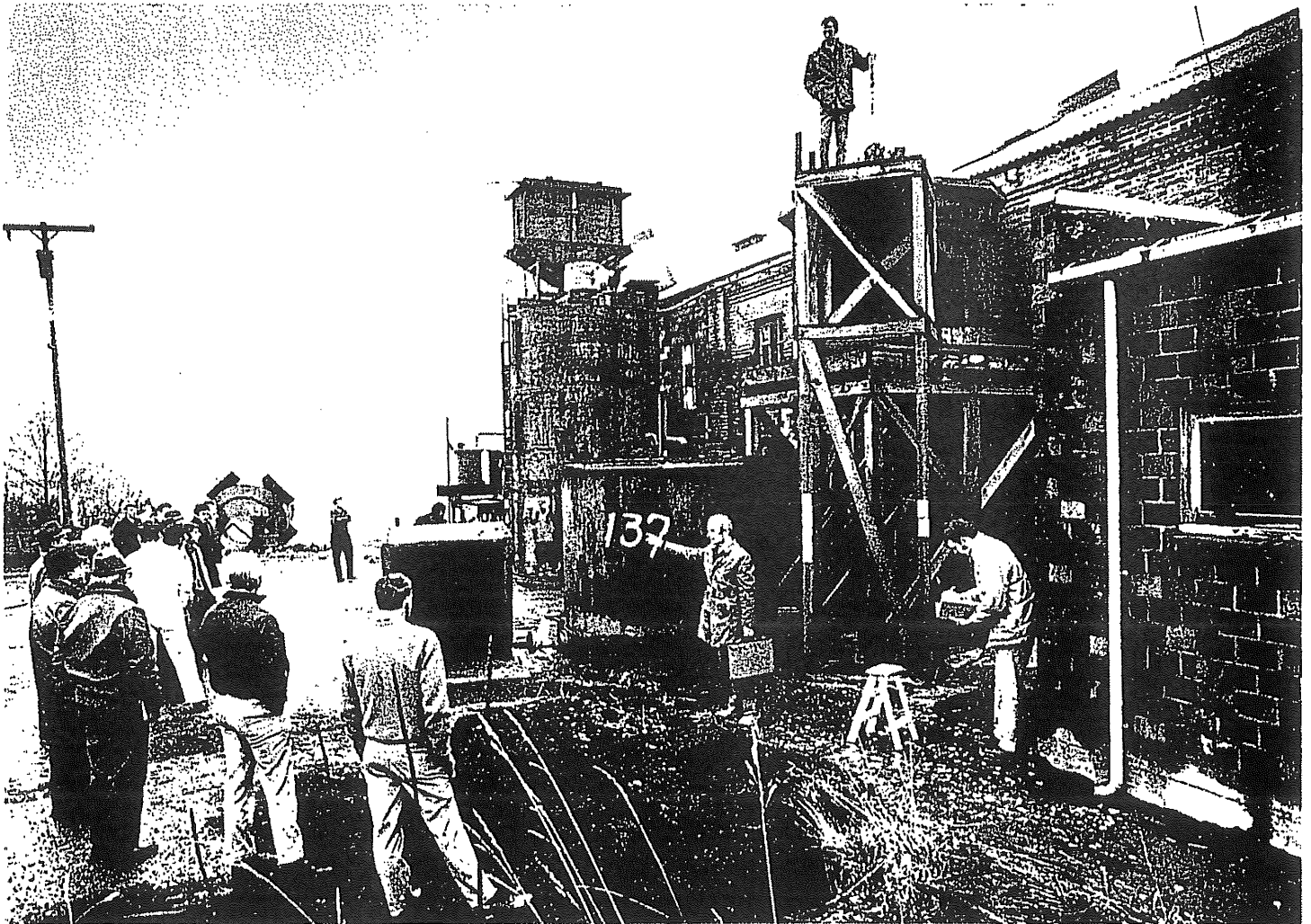
Also, the heavy gas obtained by the burning of coal was highly toxic, Randall said, because of the carbon monoxide it contained.

Cascade had purchased the building in the mid 1950s. At the time gas was obtained by coal-burning and by a propane and air combining method.

Since 1963, the plant was used as a storage area, for a short time, for magnesium research.

The natural gas firm now serves about 5,500 customers in the Bremerton-Port Orchard area, Randall said.

*THE OLD manufactured gas plant in Bremerton, expendable for several years, was sold at auction Mar. 1 in an arrangement made with the Murphy Auction organization by Vice President Jim Dickinson. In the photo, Jim Murphy (center) is describing a piece of the equipment before calling for bids. —Photo by Cliff McNair, Jr., Bremerton Sun*



**VIDEO DEPOSITION OF SVARI SIMONSON**  
**(Written transcript of videotape/audiotape)**  
**November 24, 1997**

**Participants: Tom Lindley, Miller Nash ("TL")**  
**Svari Simonson, Former Employee of Cascade ("SS")**

[Note: \*\* = indicates word or phrase within asterisks is unclear]  
[ \*\*\*\* = totally indecipherable word or phrase]

TL: Good afternoon, this is Tom Lindley. I'm an attorney with Miller Nash. Miller Nash is legal counsel for Cascade Natural Gas. It is Monday, November 24, 1997; a few minutes before 1:00 in the afternoon. I'm here to obtain some information relating to the Bremerton, Washington manufactured gas plant site. This matter came to the attention of Cascade Natural Gas and to my attention based on a letter from William Sesko -- S-E-S-K-O -- that was sent by Mr. Sesko's attorney to Cascade Natural Gas talking about the old Bremerton gas works, and I have marked that -- just for purposes of the record to go along with the video -- as Simonson Video Exhibit No. 1. I'm not going to go through it and we aren't going to use it, but the purpose of referring to Simonson Video Exhibit No. 1 is to point out that it is a demand from Mr. Sesko through his attorney to Cascade and that it attaches to it as its third page, a map that the letter describes as a 1928 Sanborn map. Now, this 1928 Sanborn map is one that I'm going to be using throughout this talk to try to gain additional information about what happened at this facility. We invited Mr. Sesko or his attorney to be present today, as we were attempting to get more information. We've received an indication that they have chosen not to attend. We again offered them another opportunity and they have not responded.

We're here today with a former employee of Cascade Natural Gas, and that is Mr. Simonson, and I'm going to ask Mr. Simonson to identify himself for the camera and for me.

SS: Oh, I'm Svari Simonson.

TL: And Mr. Simonson, when were you born?

SS: 1919; 16<sup>th</sup> of August.

TL: And where were you born?

SS: In Oslo, Norway.

TL: And you came to the United States shortly after World War II?

SS: Yes.

TL: Now, after you came to the United States, you held several different professional positions or occupations. One was the manager of an oyster shell mill?

SS: Right.

TL: After leaving the oyster shell mill, did you join with a gas company?

SS: Yes.

TL: And what was that gas company?

SS: Western Gas; located on Thompson Drive.

TL: And that's Thompson Drive in Bremerton, Washington?

SS: Right.

TL: And about what year was that?

SS: 1953.

TL: And did that -- what was at that plant or that site?

SS: It was a manufacturing gas plant; manufacturing gas for public use.

TL: And how long did you stay at that plant site? How long did you keep working at that plant site?

SS: You mean before we got the propane **\*\*air\*\*** in?

TL: At least initially, yes.

SS: Around roughly two years.

TL: Okay; were you at the sight until it ultimately closed?

SS: Yes.

TL: Did the site ever transfer from Western Gas to another gas company?

SS: Yeah; transferred to Cascade Natural Gas.

TL: Did you continue to work with Cascade Natural Gas?

SS: Yes, I did.

TL: But not at that plant site.

SS: No.

TL: After it was converted to propane.

SS: Yeah; then we worked out of the office -- downtown Bremerton.

TL: Okay; we'll talk about that plant site in some -- at some length in a moment or so. What positions did you hold at the Bremerton manufactured gas plant site?

SS: At the time there was shut down?

TL: What did you start as?

SS: I started as a gas maker's helper.

TL: Um-hmm.

SS: And ended up as a gas maker.

TL: Okay; and what does a gas maker's helper do?

SS: You keep the place op -- clean, neat -- and you also haul in briquettes to be used in the generator to generate the heat to what we call crack down the oil to make gas out of the oil.

TL: And what did the gas ma -- what did you do as the gas maker at that facility?

SS: Then I was making the gas.

TL: Okay; let's talk a moment about how you manufacture gas. Many people these days are accustomed to turning a switch.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: And the heater comes on and the gas comes through pipes.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: We're talking now about something you were doing in the early 1950's. How did you make gas?

SS: Well, first we had a generator that was heated up to -- I'm not sure -- say 11 -- 1200 degrees and then the oil come in -- into that hot wall and evaporated. Then it went from there into a scrubber where the gas goes through a tank where you have wooden slots and **\*\*water\*\*** so the gas is kind of washed out. Then it goes from there and into holder and from the holder it goes into a purification and from there it goes into the holder that supplies the gas for the city. Is that about --?

TL: That's a good summary. In terms of the way you heated it, I believe you used the word "briquettes".

SS: Yes.

TL: Were they a fuel for a heater of some sort?

SS: Right; they were used in the generator for heat.

TL: And you said that oil would go in and be evaporated.

SS: Right.

TL: What type of oil was that?

SS: Diesel oil.

TL: And the diesel oil would then go through -- if I understood correctly -- you said after it evaporated it would go through some sort of scrubber?

SS: Yes.

TL: And can you tell me a little more about the scrubber?

SS: The scrubber is a tank with wooden boards and water sprinkling over the wooden slots and the gas goes through there and that's what the scrubber did before it went into the purification.

TL: And what happened in the purification section?

SS: Well, that takes all the impurities out of the gas and takes some of the odor out of it and that's about only thing it is.

TL: And then the gas would go into storage tanks?

SS: Yes.

TL: And from the storage tanks it'd be pumped to the people who were going to use the gas.

SS: Yeah, the -- we had the -- we had two compressors that was pumping into the storage tanks and they were kept up to -- oh, I can't remember for sure, but around 80-85 pound of pressure on those storage tanks. So when we shut the plant down in the evening, then the city had plenty of gas coming out of the storage, so they were drawing out of the storage tanks at all times.

TL: So you made gas only part of the day, but you'd store what you made and then that stored portion would be used in the evenings?

SS: Yes and through the day also.

TL: With -- you mentioned that at some point the plant was closed down as a manufacturing plant; is that correct?

SS: Yes, yes.

TL: And that was approximately 1955 or '56?

SS: Yeah, around that time; yes.

TL: Can you describe what happened when that plant was closed down as a manufacturing plant?

SS: Well, everything -- the machines were shut down and the only thing we used as a compressor, we had automatic -- installed automatic propane air plant and the compressor then pumped the gas into the old storage tank that was previously used for manufactured gas; so used the same tanks.

TL: So you didn't need the briquettes anymore.

SS: No.

TL: And you didn't need the diesel oil anymore.

SS: Right.

TL: Let's talk about -- now we've talked about the gas and how it was made.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: And where it went, when you make gas and you evaporate oil you get some sort of by-products don't you? Or waste?

SS: Right; we had bug juice -- and there was very little of it and then we had creosote. And the creosote was hauled out to -- on the barge from the dock we had. We pumped the creosote down to the dock and they hauled it out of there on barges.

TL: Now some people might call creosote a waste since it's generated as a byproduct of the process.

SS: It's a byproduct that's a good selling product that people in \*\*\*\* bought it. They use it to all kinds of things. They can even use it to paint with it so iron won't rust. What they did over in Seattle or wherever they got the big tanks. I don't know.

TL: But it was a valuable byproduct that you were able to sell.

SS: Oh, yes.

TL: And you said you loaded it off the site by the -- to a barge?



SS: Yes.

TL: You also mentioned bug juice.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: Can you tell us a little bit about that?

SS: Well, there isn't much I can tell you about that because we didn't have much of it, but we had used a sprinkling can and sprayed on the weeds and the blackberry -- those going along the fence next to the road out there on Thompson Drive. So we kept that neat and clean looking.

TL: Did you spray the bug juice anywhere else?

SS: No.

TL: Did you ever dump it anywhere or ever hear of it being dumped?

SS: No; nuh-huh.

TL: Did you or did any of your colleagues use the bug juice for anything?

SS: Well, they told me they had even used it in their cars during the war.

TL: To go with their gasoline?

SS: Yeah; and they said -- one fellow was telling me that stuff is so hot even burned the valves on his engine, so they could prove that it worked all right.

TL: So this particular byproduct that you're calling bug juice --

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: -- was very flammable?

SS: Yes, yes.

TL: And did you ever use it in your car?

SS: No.

TL: Okay; you've described the property in Bremerton and said it was near Thompson. I'm going to pull up a map of the area and we'll ask you to talk for just a little bit about the map. This is an enlargement of the map that I just showed from Mr. Sesko's attorney's letter, and it's the same map; just a larger size. Let's see if I can fold it flat here and hold it out. And then I'm going to ask you some things about the map.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: Now, there's a reference -- this is a 19 -- is designated as a 1928 map. You indicated you started working there in the 1950's.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: 1950 --

SS: Three.

TL: -- three; is this Western Gas Company site located where the Western Gas Company site was that you worked at?

SS: Right; correct.

TL: That's between roughly -- somewhere between Pennsylvania Avenue and Thompson Avenue?

SS: That's correct.

TL: And it shows the Port of Washington Narrows -- or Port Washington Narrows.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: That's a waterway adjacent to that; isn't it?

SS: Yes.

TL: Now, was the lan -- was the land itself hilly or generally flat or how was it in that area?

SS: Where the plant was located it was pretty flat in there.

TL: Okay.

SS: Right in --

TL: And what was the bank going to the water like?

SS: It was very steep. Nobody could even walk down that.

TL: Okay.

SS: It was really steep. They had some -- in fact, they had build steps to go down to the dock **\*\*bay\*\*** because nobody could walk it.

TL: And you've mentioned the dock; I'll ask you: did Western Gas or Cascade Gas have a dock at this site?

SS: Yes, we had one down below here.

TL: And that dock would be sort of off the area that on this map is labeled "winch" and be about this part of the property?

SS: Yes; it be close to that; yes.

TL: We'll have a larger version of this whole area in a moment, but what I'd like to do is to talk about the rest of the area now with some of the neighbors on the map.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: This map shows a Richfield Oil Company to be -- north is at this side of the map. Do you see that? Is this your recollection as well?

SS: North -- the be --

TL: So that north --

SS: North -- yeah; so the be west of Thompson Drive; right?

TL: I'll have to -- I have to ask you that but --

SS: Yeah.

TL: Did Thompson Drive run north/south?

SS: Yes.

TL: Okay.

SS: So then this would be west and here was a hill from Thompson Drive and north there was a hill going over there.

TL: And Richfield Oil Company was up that hill?

SS: Up on the hill; yes.

TL: And it -- it was Richfield Oil then. Thompson Drive runs north/south.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: Richfield Oil Company would be to the west and Richfield was up a slight or a steep hill?

SS: Oh, a slight hill.

TL: Slight hill.

SS: Yeah.

TL: Okay; and that was still operating when you were there in the 1950's.

SS: Right.

TL: Okay. Now, just south of the Western Gas Company site is an area identified as "lent's" -- L-E-N-T'S.

SS: Yes.

TL: Do you remember the Lent's was there when you were there in the 1950's?

SS: Yeah; they had that property at that time; yeah.

TL: Now, immediately to the east of the Western Gas Company site is what appears to be a drawing of a number of gasoline or diesel or fuel tanks of some sort. Do you remember whether those tanks were there in the 1950's?

SS: Yes, they were there.

TL: Do you remember who owned them at that time?

SS: It was Lent's because I see Lent's had the big trucks out there.

TL: Okay; and for -- just to make this -- this is north on this map; this is south on the map. Thompson runs north to south and Lent's would be then immediately south of your plant site.

SS: Yes.

TL: And these are the tanks that you were talking about?

SS: That's correct; yeah.

TL: Now, the map has a big open area to the north of Richfield Oil. Do you remember anything being located there?

SS: Yeah, they have a yacht club down there. Let's see; the yacht club will be right down in this area.

TL: So it would be just immediately north of the Richfield Oil Company and immediately west of Thompson Avenue?

SS: Yeah, that's correct.

TL: Okay. Now, when you say a yacht club, is that a marina of some sort?

SS: Yeah, they had that marina there and they also -- I met some people lived on their boat down there, so --

TL: When was that?

SS: Was in 1954?

TL: Okay; if I may, what I'd like to do now is turn to the blow up or the enlargement of the Western Gas Company site portion of this map and to talk with you about that portion of the site.

SS: Okay.

TL: I'm gonna make one exception; my apologies.

SS: Okay.

TL: We've talked about there being -- let's see if I can hold this up -- fuel tanks in this area. Do you remember any fuel tanks over to the east of Pennsylvania Avenue?

SS: Yes; \*\*\*\* had big tanks up there.

TL: And you mentioned the dock --

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: -- for Western Gas which was just off this area of Western Gas.

SS: Yes.

TL: Was there another dock?

SS: Yeah; Lent's -- Lent's had a dock further up this way.

TL: And is that dock still there?

SS: That I don't know.

TL: Okay.

SS: I haven't been around that way \*\*\*\* couldn't tell you.

TL: Okay. Do you know whether any of the other companies in this area also used that dock?

SS: No.

TL: Okay; did Cascade or Western ever use this other dock?

SS: No.

TL: Did anyone other than Cascade or Western ever use the Cascade dock?

SS: No.

TL: Okay. Now, I'm going to hold up and then I'll put down so we can talk about it --

SS: Okay.

TL: -- the enlargement of the portion of the map that was the Western Gas Company site.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: And this is again from that 1928 map and this is simply labeled "Simonson Video Exhibit No. 3", so it's the same map we've been about. But do you recognize this general area?

SS: Yes.

TL: And is this the area we've been talking about?

SS: Yes.

TL: Now, I'll -- the dock I believe you said would be just off of the Lent's area?

SS: That's correct; yeah.

TL: What was the dock used for again?

SS: We loaded creosote on barge down there. They -- I don't know who bought the creosote, but they come in with the barge with a big tank and we loaded the creosote down there.

TL: And did you bring things from the dock onto to the site?

SS: Yeah; we also got propane delivered. They we pumped that up to a propane tank over in here.

TL: And where did your briquettes come from?

SS: I don't know where they came from, but we got a couple of loads in on the barge and later they was hauled in with trucks.

TL: Where were the briquettes stored?

SS: They were stored right in the area behind, well, they'll be west of the building -- in the back of the building in there. That's where they stored all the briquettes.

TL: And that on this map would then be the area immediately east of Thompson Avenue?

SS: Yes.

TL: So the briquettes then would be stored right in here?

SS: Right.

TL: Okay; and you said the creosote would be pumped from a tank up in here somewhere.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: Down to the dock?

SS: Right.

TL: And propane was pumped up to a propane tank here.

SS: Right.

TL: Okay; now, just in terms of direction -- again this is an expansion of the earlier maps, so north goes this way and that would mean that this is the same Richfield Oil site.

SS: Yes.

TL: Okay; and we talked about a fence.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: You mentioned the fence where some bug juice was sprayed.

SS: Yes.

TL: Where was that fence on this map? Can you point it out?

SS: The fence was going -- let's see -- going from the gate and over here a little ways.

TL: Okay; was there also a fence between yourself and Lent's?

SS: Yes.

TL: Okay; was there any other fence going back this way?

SS: No.

TL: Now, this again is designated a 1928 -- can you tell me what part of this was there when you were there in the -- from 1953 to 1956?

SS: Well, this stuff in the storage tanks and everything was there. I don't recall ever seeing those tanks up there.

TL: So these what are listed as oil and gasoline tanks were not there when you came in the 1950's?

SS: No; I never seen them.

TL: And these diesel tanks -- were they there or were they gone by then?

SS: We had only one diesel tank and it was a square tank.

TL: Okay; that was -- I believe you pointed here?

SS: Right.

TL: Okay; now, this shows the big circle that it calls a gas holder.

SS: Right.

TL: Can you describe what that was?

SS: Well, when they made the gas they came out of the gas machines through the scrubber and into this -- this tank. They was floating \*\*\*\* by water, so when the gas got in there it just lifted this top of the tank up -- just floating in the water.

TL: So that was where the gas went when it was first coming out of being manufactured.

SS: That's right.

TL: Where did the -- and then you mentioned the gas went to scrubbers.

SS: Yes.

TL: Or to a scrubber; where was that scrubber?

SS: The scrubber's located right next to that storage tank.

TL: So it's this little circle right here?

SS: Yes.

TL: Okay; now these are -- these three circles are called scrubbers here, but I believe you've used another word to describe those?



SS: Yeah; they was the **\*\*putifiers\*\*** [purifiers?]. We took some of the odor out of the gas and other impurities that was in the gas that was taken out by using this wooden chips and some oxide of some -- some kind. I don't know exactly what that was.

TL: So the gas would be purified in these purifiers and then would be pumped into the storage tanks?

SS: That -- yeah, that's correct.

TL: Now, that would mean that there was some sort of waste coming out of the purifiers?

SS: Yes; they was -- they were cleaned out every so often, but I never saw where the waste went, but it could've been hauled out and I wasn't at work that day or whatever.

TL: So the wood chips and so on that you've described were hauled -- they were not stored on site?

SS: No; they're hauled out.

TL: Okay; now, this 1928 drawing shows six roughly equal -- or equal tanks.

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: When you were there in the 1950's were all the tanks the same size?

SS: No; the one on the very end over here was a little smaller than the others.

TL: And what did it hold?

SS: It held creosote.

TL: Now, this is designated BLR RM. Can you tell me what this was? What this part of this building was?

SS: That's where the machines were. We had two machines, one in the north end and one in the middle of the building where we made the gas. So we had two machines and one was shut down, then we overhauled the other **\*\*\*\*** ready.

TL: Did you ever use a boiler to heat those machines?

SS: It was a generator we called it; a generator. That's where we used the briquettes to keep the temperature up.

TL: Okay.

SS: So --

TL: Now, was this -- were those machines on the ground or were they on concrete or were they on -- how -- describe the building to me if you will.

SS: Well, there's a big building and a concrete floor.

TL: And there would be a pipeline that connected that building to the -- to the gas holder?

SS: Yeah; there had to be.

TL: And what is this small building over here?

SS: That -- that is the same. That's no building there. The building goes straight over and there's no building there. What we had in there was a little shed with a 50-horse electric motor that was run the cable down to pick up the briquettes on the -- run the bucket on the cables picking up the briquettes down in the bay.

TL: There's a dotted line sort of rectangle up here. Do you know, was there something there when you came in the 1950's?

SS: No, was nothing there.

TL: Okay; now, you've indicated that the briquettes were stored here.

SS: Yes.

TL: There's also some space up here. What was this used for?

SS: Well, when I came they had the propane -- big propane truck delivered and they sold propane around town, and that truck was parked in there. There was no building there.

TL: Did anyone ever park anything else in there?

SS: Yeah, we had the fellow that bought the bus that went between Poulsbo and Bremerton and he bought that bus and made it into motor home, and he had that parked there.

TL: Now, can you describe what this area was like? Was it --

SS: Well, it was more like a gravel parking lot. That's what I would call it; and then in the back there's a steep bank that goes down and had some -- I guess that belonged to Lent's -- and there were just tiny little trees growing in there and that kind of stuff; bushes, whatever.

TL: Now, when this facility -- when this plant was converted from a manufacturing plant to a propane plant, how many tanks or what type of tanks were used to store the propane?

SS: One tank.

TL: And do you know what happened to the other tanks?

SS: Well, excuse me, the other tanks were used for storing manufactured tanks -- manufactured gas and they were then used to store the propane air we had for the city.

TL: Now, with all the gas being manufactured on site or brought on side, presumably you had some way to get it off site. You had a gas pipeline of some sort?

SS: Well, we had the distribution system in Bremerton.

TL: Can you point out where that gas line would've come out from this -- on this drawing?

SS: Yeah, it came -- came out from here, going straight down and up to Thompson.

TL: So it would come in essence from east to west onto Thompson?

SS: Um-hmm.

TL: And then it would go south on Thompson.

SS: Right.

TL: And do you know about how far down Thompson it went?

SS: Well, it went to 15<sup>th</sup> Street and then went east on 15<sup>th</sup> Street and over on High Street. It went -- it went down High Street to 13<sup>th</sup> Street and that's where you had the regulator station. That's -- for that line then went into the distribution system.

TL: Who were the biggest customers at that time?

SS: Navy Yard.

TL: Did anyone other than the Navy Yard use Cascade or Washington -- or I'm sorry -- Western Gas?

SS: Oh yes; we had quite a few. We had 500 customers -- 400 -- 500 customers.

TL: Good; and can you name some of those other customers? For example, was the city a customer?

SS: No; they're mostly private homes. We had gas downtown but I -- I couldn't -- I couldn't name them; mostly private homes.

TL: Okay.

SS: In any place -- any street, so I couldn't tell you.

TL: Now, was this pipeline that went first over to Thompson then up Thompson and underground or above ground pipe?

SS: That was in the ground.

TL: Within the ground?

SS: Yeah; in the ground.

TL: Okay; you were at this site from 1953 until it closed?

SS: Yes.

TL: And would you tell me -- can I offer you some water?

SS: Thank you.

TL: Can you tell me how the site was maintained or kept up?

SS: We always took real good care of it. In fact, we were so particular about this -- I should have told you sooner. We had briquettes that broke and turn to powder \*\*\*\*. We would clean that up and we had a little machine here. We used to take the stuff it cleaned up and heat it with steam and make new briquettes out of it. Everything was kept just -- just great.

TL: Were the grounds kept the same way?

SS: Yes.

TL: At -- in some manufactured gas plant sites there's talk of tar or tar pits or tar wells. Did you have any tar wells or pits or piles on site?

SS: No, we never had anything like that.

TL: Did you ever have any big spills or releases that you were -- either while you were there or that you heard of from before you were there?

SS: No, we never did; nuh-huh.

TL: Now, you mentioned changing the purifiers for example. Did you ever have any problems when you were changing the purifiers?

SS: No; I don't see what kind of problem that could be.

TL: There wasn't, for example, a big spill or a big pile of the purifier wood chips?

SS: No, nuh-huh, no; that was taken care of.

TL: We talked about the site being closed. When you refer to the site being closed, can you tell us again what you mean by that?

SS: Well, it -- I don't quite understand what you mean "the site being closed".

TL: It converted from a manufactured gas plant to a propane site.

SS: Yes.

TL: Did you -- when you said you worked there 'till it closed.

SS: Yeah.

TL: Were you involved with the transition to propane?

SS: Yes. We would use the same storage tanks and the same building when we made the propane gas.

TL: Did you continue to work at the site after it became a propane site?

SS: Yes.

TL: How much longer?

SS: Until we got natural gas in town. I can't remember what year that was. Couple of years I believe.

TL: And after you left this plant site, after you got natural gas in town, what happened to this site?

SS: I really don't know because I got too busy working downtown, so I never even went back up there to -- to look. Well, I went by up there but nothing was going on at the time.

TL: So if I understand correctly, after natural gas was brought in to Bremerton, you moved to the Cascade offices; is that correct?

SS: That's correct.

TL: And what did you do for Cascade after you left this plant site?

SS: I was a service mechanic.

TL: And you didn't have to go back to this plant site to service anything?

SS: Not after we got natural gas; no.

TL: Okay.

SS: I went by up there just when I happened to be in the neighborhood, but nothing was going on, and then I just didn't go back again before, well, everything was torn down and gone next time I saw it.

TL: Were you ever involved in any part of the sale of any part of this property or the tearing down of any part of this property?

SS: No.

TL: I'd like to talk with you about other people who worked at the site. Do you remember, for example, who the supervisor at the site was?

SS: Yeah; his name was Dick Rutz.

TL: Can you spell his last name?

SS: R-U-T-Z; and he had a son by the name of Pat and the last thing I heard about him he was living in Gardiner up by --

TL: Would Gardiner be near Sequim?

SS: Yeah; near Sequim; yeah.

TL: Now, you said "he". Is this Pat or Dick?

SS: That's Pat; that's Dick's son.

TL: Is Dick still alive?

SS: No; he's gone.

TL: Do you know whether Pat is still alive?

SS: No, I don't.

TL: But Pat -- did Pat also work at the site?

SS: Yes.

TL: Do you remember the names of any others who worked at the site that might still be alive and able to tell us about it?

SS: No, I really don't. The only thing I can remember is a fellow by the name of Pete and I heard that he at one time was working for Washington Natural Gas and I believe he was in Oregon. So, I'm -- I'm -- that's the only one I can think of would be alive.

TL: Okay.

SS: I know the name of the other people if you need them.

TL: But are any of the -- are any of them alive \*\*\*\*\*?

SS: Not that I know of; no.

TL: Okay; if I may, I'm going to take a deep breath and ask you to take one and I'm going to check my notes and we'll see if there's anything else I need you to ask you.

SS: Okay.

TL: Mr. Simonson, I'll -- we've both talked and neither of us can remember anything more to ask. Is that -- at least I can't remember anything more to ask. Do you have anything more you want to say about it?

SS: No, I really don't.

TL: Okay.

SS: I -- that's all I can remember from the good old days.

TL: The attorney for Mr. Sesko and Mr. Sesko have not appeared, so I believe we are done. Thank you very much.

SS: Okay; my pleasure.

Videographer: So go off the video record; the time is 1:37 p.m.

## **BREMERTON GAS WORKS SITE HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

### **John West Notes Regarding Conversation With Melvin C. Clapp**

- John West is a former attorney for Cascade Natural Gas Corporation. Mr. West discussed the former manufactured gas plant (MGP) with Mr. Clapp and prepared notes summarizing the discussion on April 21, 1997.
- At the time of the discussion, Mr. Clapp was a retired chairman of Cascade. Mr. Clapp was the District Manager of Cascade's Bremerton district between 1968 and 1969.
- Mr. Clapp said that between 1968 and 1969, "[the] main gas holders . . . were not there, but that the main building and some of the smaller tanks on the water side of the property were still in place."
- Mr. Clapp also said that the neighbor to the south of the MGP, "Lentz, Inc." [sic], was in operation between 1968 and 1969, and the "Lentz operation next door may have included wood treatment as well as pipe storage."

### **Linda Baker Notes from Meeting at Site**

- Linda Baker is a former consultant for Cascade. Ms. Baker was present at two meetings at the MGP site in late 1997 together with representatives of Cascade (including one of its former attorneys, Tom Lindley), the then current owners of the former MGP property, and a former worker at the MGP, Sverre Simonsen (who attended one of the meetings). At the direction of Mr. Lindley, Ms. Baker prepared a summary of the meetings on October 7, 1997.
- Mr. Simonsen, in response to a 1944 Polk Directory map showing the MGP, said: "[t]he eight tanks oriented east/west across the southern portion of the site held several products. The five northern tanks held finished gas. The three tanks to the south held 'creosote', 'bug juice' and propane. The creosote (assumed to be tarry MGP residuals) was of very high quality (4 percent water)."
- Mr. Simonsen also said, "[t]he gas holder . . . held creosote and water by-products and was maybe 15 feet deep."
- Mr. Simonsen also said, "[the] small scrubber tank was located on the north side of the gas holder (where a rectangular depression with four sections exists on the pavement)."

### **John West Notes Regarding Conversation With Ed White**

- Ed White was a Cascade employee stationed in the Bremerton office between 1964 and 1965. Mr. West discussed the former MGP with Mr. White and prepared notes summarizing the discussion on January 26, 1998.
- Mr. White said when he worked at the Bremerton office, the structures still in place at the MGP consisted of, "an old brick building, some large tanks, and some concrete piers which supported the tanks (cradles)."
- Mr. White also said that between 1964 and 1965, "most or all the tanks were removed and the concrete piers were jackhammered and the rubble hauled away."
- Mr. White also said that between 1964 and 1965, Cascade used the MGP property to store materials such as pipe and fittings.